

Program Name	Counties served	Total # of Victims ¹ Served 2013	Use for increased contract funds ²
CASA/ Family Systems	Orangeburg, Calhoun, Bamberg	125	Individual and Group Counseling
Cumbee Center	Edgefield, Saluda, McCormick, Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale	608	Trainings for professionals
Family Resource Center	Kershaw, Lee	41	Individual Counseling
Foothills Alliance	Anderson, Oconee	480	Outreach/Education
Julie Valentine Center	Greenville	388	Crisis Intervention
Hope Haven	Beaufort, Hampton, Colleton, Jasper	1,436	Crisis Intervention/Personal and Legal Advocacy
People Against Rape	Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester	354	Crisis Intervention
Palmetto CASA	Lancaster, Chester, Fairfield	409	Prevention Education
Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault	Florence, Marion, Darlington, Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon, Williamsburg, Clarendon	275	Prevention Education
Rape Crisis Center	Horry, Georgetown	388	Therapy and Crisis Intervention
Rape Crisis Council of Pickens County	Pickens	365 ³	Outreach/Education
SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition	Spartanburg, Cherokee	347	Prevention Education
Safe Passage, Inc.	York, Union	100	Outreach/Education
Beyond Abuse	Greenwood, Laurens, Abbeville	237	Group Counseling
Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands	Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Sumter	1,789	Crisis Intervention/Personal and Legal Advocacy (Sumter) and Outreach/Education
Totals		7,342 ⁴	

¹ Primary and secondary survivors. No education numbers included.
² Leveraging state contract funds with private and federal funding.
³ Based on 2011 statistics.
⁴ Rape Crisis agencies served 2,083 more victims in 2013 than 2012, though funding remains at the 2008 level.



The South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault on behalf of the 14 sexual assault service agency member programs requests \$1.8 million through recurring funds in the DHEC 2015 budget, an increase of \$500,000.

There is a public health epidemic of sexual violence in the State of South Carolina. In fact, South Carolina's rape rate has exceeded the national rape rate since 1982 (SLED). Teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, alcohol and other drug problems, and poor physical and mental health are only a few of the social impacts that have proven to arise in the devastating wake of sexual assault- especially for survivors who have limited support. However, the State has found a solution to minimizing costs associated with serving these victims through contracts with local sexual assault service agencies. These agencies provide the following services through those contracts:

- 24-hour hotline response
- 24-hour hospital accompaniment
- Crisis intervention
- Personal and legal advocacy
- Outreach/Education

In 2013, these 14 centers provided these essential services to more than 7,000 victims of sexual violence in South Carolina, an increase of 2,083 since 2012. Of the 7,342 victims served, more than 40% were 18 or younger. These services reduce the impact of the trauma of the sexual assault on the survivor and thus reduce the tremendous financial impact on the state for direct costs of mental and medical healthcare and indirect costs of lost productivity. These agencies are leveraging the State funding with federal and private dollars. In fact, at Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands for every \$1 provided by the State of South Carolina to protect the health of its citizens from the trauma of sexual assault, STSM matches \$7.

This request for increased funding is two-fold.

- Some of the organizations have seen a drastic increase in the number of victims and services needed due to population growth and successful outreach efforts and will use the increase in funding to provide essential services. If awarded the increased contract, Beaufort County's Hope Haven intends to hire an additional Victim Advocate to provide crisis intervention and legal advocacy for victims. Sexual Trauma Services to the Midlands intends to lease a permanent office space for crisis counseling and therapy for survivors in Sumter County.
- Many of the agencies are also providing optional services under the DHEC contract on a limited basis. An increase in funding would allow them to provide and/or expand individual and group therapeutic counseling (to strengthen the healing process), training for professionals who work with sexual assault victims (to reduce the impact on survivors and increase reporting), and multi-session prevention education to youth in middle and high schools (to end sexual violence all together). For example, at Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands, we have 2.5 educators on staff providing the Youth Violence Prevention curriculum in an average of 27 middle and high schools annually. However, with more than 150 schools in our service area, we aren't even touching the problem. We will use a portion of this additional funding to hire a third full-time educator to outreach to and educate youth to prevent sexual violence and make our communities and schools safer.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ginny Waller at (803) 790-8208 or ginny.waller@stsm.org if you have any additional questions or concerns. Thank you for your time and your commitment to ensuring the health and well-being of South Carolina's citizens.

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